Video Cameras and Photographic cameras are liable to Customs duty at the rate of 131.25 *ad-valorem* and 140.5 per cent *ad-valorem* respectively. However, there is no duty in case of import of photographic camera by an Accredited Press Cameraman. In case of import of 'photographic equipment' by an Accredited News Agency, the duty applicable is at the rate of 25 per cent *ad-valorem*.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : My question is that this item is in the banned list since 4 decades. Cameras have an educative value. And smuggling is going on because you have imposed, for no reason, a ban on the import of these educative items. Therefore, I would like to know as to when the ban is going to be lifted. And why don't you consider this as part of literary activities ?

उपसभापति : महता जी आप इतना लम्बा सवाल क्यों पूछते हैं ?

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Kandla Export Processing Zone

*241. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the Kandla Export Processing Zone;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to provide basic facilities to investors at the Kandla Free Trade Export Processing Zone, particularly power, water supply and single window clearance;

(c) the total number of units registered in the said zone so far; and

(d) the total value of exports from the zone during the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 till date ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Kandla Free Trade Zone offers basic infrastructural facilities such as power and water supply, drainage and roads in addition to developed plots and built up factory premises. The Zone also provides single window clearance for applications to set up units and in matters such as import of additional capital goods and broad banding of production.

(c) and (d) At present, 156 units hold valid approvals in the Kandla Zone. The total exports from the Zone during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below :

(Rs. crores)

Year	Value of Exports
1990-91	456.55
1991-92	427.18
1992-93	167.21
1993-94 (Apr.-Nov.)	155.69

अवैध खानों में कार्यरत मजदूरों की मृत्यु

*244. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अवैध खानों में कार्यरत कई मजदूरों की मृत्यु होने के कुछ मामले हाल में सरकार के ध्यान में आये हैं ?

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान मृत्यु के ऐसे मामलों का राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने ठीक प्रकार से कार्यवाही न किये जाने पर कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की है; और उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत कुमार पांजा) : (क) और (ख) : कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड ने सूचित किया कि कोयला कंपनियों द्वारा गैर-कानूनी रूप से उत्खनन की जाने वाली खानों में श्रमिकों की हुई मृत्यु के संबंध में कोई ब्यौरा नहीं रखा जाता है। अतः इस संबंध में सूचना उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ग) गैर-कानूनी रूप से किए जा रहे खनन को रोकने तथा दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाई किया जाना संबद्ध राज्य सरकार का प्राथमिक दायित्व है। किंतु गैर-कानूनी खनन को रोकने के

लिए कोयला कंपनियों द्वारा कई उपाय किए जाते हैं, जिनमें बंद पड़ी खानों को सील करना तथा जब कभी भी ऐसे मामले उसके ध्यान में आते हैं तो उनकी संबंधित पुलिस स्टेशन में रिपोर्ट दर्ज कराया जाना शामिल है। अतः सरकार द्वारा कोयला कंपनियों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई किए जाने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

Green Channel Treatment to Exporters

*245. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a scheme for providing Green Channel treatment to exporters;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) what is the number of exporters who are likely to be benefited from the scheme; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The green-channel facility for exemption from examination of export cargo is presently available in respect of the following categories of exports :

(i) Export consignments which have been examined and sealed by central excise officers or by agencies, such as, the Central Silk Board, Textile Committee, Export Inspection Agencies, etc.

(ii) Export consignments (other than those relating to exports under the DEEC Scheme) belonging to established exporters having an unblemished record. The Star Trading Houses, recognised Export Houses etc. who have an unblemished track record would be covered under this category.

(iii) In respect of other export consignments also (other than those relating to exports under Drawback and DEEC Scheme) routine 100 per cent examination has been dispensed with.

These export consignments are not subjected to routine 100 per cent examination and only random checks are carried out on them.

The green channel for clearance of cargo at the examination stage of the goods has been introduced by the Government with respect of specified categories of importers like Government departments, public sector undertakings and private importers having an unblemished record for the import of selected commodities. Besides, self-assessment scheme has also been introduced available to these categories of importers whereby they themselves can assess the goods, determine the duty leviable and on that basis pay the same.

With a view to expedite imports and exports, there is a proposal to extend a sort of self-declaration based Green Channel facility to genuine exporters. It is proposed to extend this facility initially to the select categories of recognised exporters, namely, Export Houses, Trading Houses, Star Trading Houses, units in the Export Processing Zone and winners of national awards for outstanding export performance. The proposal seeks to extend the coverage of the existing facility.

Implementation of Essential Commodities Act in the States

*246. SHRI J. P. JAVALI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have either suspended or are not implementing the Essential Commodities Act ;

(b) if so the details thereof;